

Application No. 10/652,625  
Response dated February 20, 2006  
Reply to Office action of December 29, 2005

Page 4 of 5

**Remarks**

Claims 1-6 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 4-6 were rejected. Claim 2 was objected to. Claims 2, 4, and 5 are amended. Claims 1, 3, and 6 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 2, 4, and 5 are now pending in the application. Claim 2 is the independent claim. Examination of the amended application is respectfully requested.

The examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida, in view of Mosdorf. The examiner also rejected claims 4-6 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida, in view of Mosdorf, and further in view of Fukui et al. In addition, the examiner objected to claim 2 as depending from a rejected base claim, but acknowledged that that claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 is amended into independent form, including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claim 6, which are canceled. The objection to claim 2, therefore, should be withdrawn. Claim 4 is amended to depend from independent claim 2, and claim 5 is amended to depend only from claim 4. The rejections of claims 4 and 5, therefore, should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections have been overcome. It is therefore requested that the Amendment be entered, the claims allowed, and the case

Application No. 10/652,625

Page 5 of 5

Response dated February 20, 2006

Reply to Office action of December 29, 2005

passed to issue. If the examiner considers any issues to be unresolved, he is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



February 20, 2006

Date

Thomas M. Champagne  
Registration No. 36,478  
IP STRATEGIES  
12 ½ Wall Street  
Suite I  
Asheville, North Carolina 28801  
828/253-8600  
828/253-8620 fax